

Durie House
Schraalenburg Road
Closter, Bergen County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-472

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

Durie House
Schraalenburg Road
Closter, Bergen County, New Jersey

Owner: Mr. Herring Riker Turnure

Date of Erection: About 1800

Architect:

Builder: A member of the Durie family

Present Condition: Excellent

Number of Stories: Main house two and one-half;
wing two stories

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - south wall
main unit brick, rest of main
unit brownstone; end of wing
brownstone, north and south
elevations frame

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - gambrel on main with
dormers of later date; pitch
on wing with later dormers

Historical Data:

The ancestor of the Durie family was Jean Durie (also Du Rie) a French Huguenot supposedly born in Picardy who fled to Manhein. According to family tradition he worked for his passage to America at the early age of fifteen. He was a blacksmith by trade. Shortly after 1682 he joined the Demarest colony at Hackensack, and in 1686 along with other French colonists obtained a patent

to lands on the west bank of Kinderkamack Creek. In 1694 he was supposed to have received a grant west of Closter.

The Closter land descended to his son Jan who by his will of 1773 divided the land between his two sons and his grandson. The north part of the tract went to his son David. It was either David or Nicholas, apparently a son, who built the present house around the turn of the nineteenth century. It is "a beautiful example of development of the eighteenth century style in the early nineteenth century".

Cornelius W. Durie, David W. Durie, and Jacob J. Demarest, executors of the will of Nicholas Durie sold the property in 1870 to I. Smith Romans. He sold ten acres with the house to John L. Turnure. It descended to the present owner by will of his mother Mary J., widow of John L. Turnure.

Bibliography:

Bailey, Rosalie F. Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses and Families in Northern New Jersey and Southern New York New York, William Morrow and Company, 1936.

A search of Bergen County records by Wallace Dunlop, Bergen County Office

Walter E. Rutt
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour W. Williams
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.
District Officer

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